The Orphans Crye
We perish
We Dye
for ye lords sake
For Gods Sake
For Crist Sake
O Somm Comfort
As Quee you see
So may yours Bee
Lay not this Siun to theyr Charge
Pitty me in miserye
O I am Sick
Dead in the Street

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THE Poore Orphans Court, OR Orphans Cry.

By M. S.

Being a wel-wiſher for a ſpeedy helpe of their miſery, and an eye-witneſſe of their preſent calamitie.

LONDON,
Printed by *A. G.* for *M. S.* junior. 1636.

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The Preface.

HE that ſhal undertake at all times to ſpeake truth in this age (freely from his heart) ſhall be accounted a medling fellow, not worthy to live in any ſociety, but to be ſequeſtred from men. We all know ſome be inferiour, and thoſe men ought not to be ſo little reſpected, as not to be called men, becauſe they have no authority: For there is as well the common Sailer as the Pilot, and hee ſees the ſtorme before it comes, and gives notice to the Pilot how to ſteare his courſe for their beſt ſafegard. So I living this many yeeres, and obſerving this wel-governed Citty, have ſeene as in moſt things ſomething which I thought amiſſe, and might be rectified, which is the great neglect of the poore of this Cittie. I meddle no further, for by my frequent going in all parts earely and late, I have theſe many yeeres obſerved the miſery of the poore but moſt of all of children, young boyes and girles, which for many yeeres I beheld, hoping ever God would open ſome honeſt Citizens heart that died rich, that they would doe ſomething to beginne to raiſe a ſtocke. And ſeeing S. Pauls remembred, though not ſufficiently, as alſo Moreſields, Alderſgate, Allgate, Newgate, and other good deeds done and perfor-

med, yet this neglected, I caused a Booke to be printed some 16. yeeres agoe, called, Grievous groanes for the Poore. But I being then in the country the booke (whether at the Booke sellers or at the Printers I know not) lost the life, and reason how the poore should be provided for, by which meanes it lost all respect, and I my good intention; not many yeeres after this, there was a collection for imployment for the poore, but which way that stocke went I have nothing to doe to examine; Not many yeeres after that, that worthy Sir T. M. his project came forth, which no doubt had it beene seconded, it had taken good effect, for I am perswaded hee aimed at the generall good of all, but this vanished as a shadow; since which I have observed and finde the last remedy is for the children used in the weekely Bills, Dead in the Street, or starved. And this is all the remedy I finde for these poore silly witlesse creatures. Those that be able to helpe themselves, I speake not for, but for these poore Orphans, whose Court is kept in a Cage, or under a Stall, or in S. Pau's amongst the formes, the more is the pittie. Wee have an Orphans Court well guided and governed (God be thanked for it) long may it continue, and what trudging and going is there if the rich die, and leave wealth to their children, but the poore die and no Orphans Court can be found. O utinam, there it is, and not else to be found or seene. But these few lines it may be will be laughed at, I care not though they be; I give my selfe content, and wish but that may be done here, as is at this present in Dorchester, Norwich, not one seene to begge: let us learne of them or of the Dutch, as in the Vniversity of LEYDEN; where 800. Orphans are daily fed and set at worke, and well provided

for,

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for, how doe the Dutch or French parishioners in LONDON; *can they doe so, and not wee? It is nothing but our hard hearts; for mee thinkes I heare some say, I have but* 500. *pounds in my estate, I would give one to it, nay I am perswaded there be* 500. *of this minde in this Citie, but either cowardize, or feare of being accounted a vaine-glorious person makes them desist, nay, mee thinkes I heare some* Companies *say, We will keepe all our poore and well some may, if all things were looked into; but these Orphans with good looking to would keepe themselves, witnesse the willingnesse of some, who you shall have of the bigger sort in Fleet-steet in the evenings, with linkes ready to earne a penny to light men, nay, in Smithfield standing by day to sweepe cleane the waies, how ready are many of them? but the weakest goe to the wall, as wee see by woefull experience, many whose* Toes *and* Legges *are ready to rot off, and worser miseries, which make many a man blush to see that they are no better provided for. It may be I am deceived, would I were. I am verily perswaded, that many spend more in the Taverne idlely than they give the poore willingly. Will not many a Lady spend ordinarily day by day five shillings to see an idle play, or five pounds at a Rere Banquet rather than give five shillings, I beleeve five tokens, to help these poore miserable children. If they heare of a new Play, on goes all the best clothes, the Coach-horses must be fetched, and that they may hurry from the poore, the Coach-man shall have his charge, to drive away when hee commeth amongst them; and whats the word? Away with these* Stinking-beggers, *but*

when

when they come home, they will call to the ſervants to ſee the dogge have his dinner, but the poore ſhall goe ſupperleſſe to bedd under a ſtall, or in a Porch, dying *with* miſery, *or* ſtarving *with* cold, *and* hunger. *Theſe are reaſons able to draw a man into a ſerious conſideration for a ſpeedie remedy, and I leave them to thoſe in authority, and reſt ever wiſhing, but not obtaining my deſire, that there were a Court for the poore Orphans as well as the rich.*

A wel-wiſher of the poore.

M. S.

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The Orphans Court.

The poore I thus distinguish into three sorts:
1 *Sturdy Rogues and Whores.*
2 *Blinde and Lame.*
3 *Aged and Young.*

FIrst I beginne with the sturdy Rogue and Whore, and here for these there be * many good lawes enacted, but few put in execution; and for these are appointed Marshals, and Beadels. But when a Marshalls eyes be not in all places, or his men will scarce look to any, then these vermine increase; and where these are sturdy, that an old creeping Beadel must intreat for feare of knockes, then no Constable being so bold as hee ought, for feare hee be counted a busie fellow, then they get mastery and domineere, and I know no remedy for these but two, the one a labouring prison, or house of correction the other the Gallowes, and there I thinke it fittest to leave them, being people not worth the speaking of.

The second sort I come to, be the blinde and lame, these are suffered to beg, and good reason, * but there ought to be no begger but if anybe priviledged, then well may these, but none may be priviledged, *Ergo*, therefore it were more fit for the *blinde*, to be otherwise provided for, and for the *lame*, those that have lost the use of their hands to be provided for, those that have lost their feet, their hands may be made to supply that defect, by divers kindes of workes: as *Net*-making, *Saile*-making, and such like for men. The women may *Card* and *Spin*, but that is out of fashion, a *baudy*

* 23. Eliza. 3. cap. 7. 34. E. c. 1. 7. R. 2. c. 5. 12. R. 2. c. 7. 11. H. 7. c. 2. 19. H. 7. c. 12. 22. H. 8. c. 12. 27. H. 8. c. 25. 1 E. 6. c. 3. 3. E. 6. c. 5. E. 6. c. 2. 2. & 3. this and many. c. 5, 5. El. c. 3. all which are expired or repealed: & 14. El. c. 5. 18. El. c. 3. 39. El. c. 4. & 1. Iac. cap. 7. yet in force.

* 18 El. c 3 and the other forequoted statutes inhibit any to beg.

Ballade,

Ballads, or an *idle Song* are these idle peoples greatest paines, where they make many more idle than themselves, and there I leave these idle people, who might be better imployed, if they were better looked unto.

The third sort be those, which of purpose this Tract was written for, these be those that I desire you in office, and in whose power it lies, to looke with their eyes, and pitty with their hearts these poore wretched miserable wretches, those who have neither father nor mother, no, nor any friends, those that want wit, reason, and are not come to understanding, those whose yeeres speake not discretion, nor have wit to helpe themselves, and those be they that make blood drop from my heart, whilest my pen cannot expresse their misery, those of whom *Cheapside stalls*, and *doores*, and *porches*, and S. *Bartholmewes benches*, with *Smithfield*, and other corners be witnesses, to their griefes whose eyes if they stirre abroad doe not see these poore younglings, *lame*, *lowsie*, *ragged*, and almost *starved*, whilest each haire of their heads stand staring in the viewers face, as amazed to see so many not once moved with pitty to care for them.

These swarme in Summer at the Brickhils and Play-house doores, which houses are the Nurses of many of these miserable wretches, these being many are cast off by wicked parents, or being placed out to *apprentize* by the *Parish*, or put to Masters, are cast off from one to another, so if the *Parish* never heare of them againe, but be rid of them they are safe; and if the *Nurses* get but a piece of *money*, they are safe, and glad they can so be rid of them; this might be redressed by the Masters of the *Parish*, if they would every three moneth have the children brought to a *Vestry*, to see how they were provided for, but because there is no better provision for them, I could wish there were some course taken, as these few I will propound, *viz.* The *Parish* might take such course, as to call all the poore children, and take a view and number of all, and as they come to ability, to set out, as namely, by these, or such like meanes.

Every

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Every Ship being of burden 200. Tuns, ſhould employ two or three boyes.

Every Coale-ſhip trading to *London* from *Newcaſtle* to take one.

Every *Pariſh* might raiſe out of the *Pariſh* a ſtocke ſo to employ them, untill they grow to ſome ſtature, then to be ſent to the *Plantations*, to ſome careſull *Maſter* there, and they to give a true account of the children', how, and in what eſtate they be with them.

Every ſhip that goes to Virginia to carry ſixe *boyes* and ſixe girles, every one to carry the like to New England, and ſo to our other plantations, and the *Pariſh* to pay their paſſage, and at their arivall there, hee that takes them into cuſtody or ſervice, give bond to pay the charge of their fraught and coſts thither to the *Pariſh* here at twelve moneths end backe, which they would doe with thankes, ſo they might have them but ſixe yeeres *apprentize*; now ſome demand, where ſhall money be raiſed to ſend them away? for that I anſwer, the money at the Inqueſt yeerely, may be better ſo employed then to banquetting, and the great feaſt money may be better *ſpared* this waies than worſe *ſpent*.

For this many more and better courſes may be taken, which I leave to better judgements, for this I know were there but a *Stocke*, raiſed to tranſport them thither, the *Stocke* would be kept whole by thoſe that take them to be their ſervants, by returne of commodities for them, for our *Lawes* they bee good in this kinde, if they were but well executed: as for example, the 22. of *Henry* the 8.

22. *Hen.* 8. *c.* 12. and 27. *H.* 8. *c.* 25. There were acts made for the reliefe of aged and impotent perſons unable to worke, and for *Collections* to be made for ſuch: which acts preſcribe ſevere puniſhments againſt *vagabonds* and ſturdy *beggars* able to worke.

1. *Edw.* 6. *c.* 3. There was an Act paſſed for the puniſhment

niſhment of *vagabonds*, and the reliefe of the poore and impotent perſons; whereby it was enacted that *Collections* ſhould be made in every *Pariſh*, for the impotent *poore* of that *Pariſh*: that thoſe who were aged and lame ſhould be ſet to ſuch worke as they were able to performe, every *Towne*, *Pariſh*, or *village* providing ſuch worke for them in common, as they might be occupied in, or appointing them to ſuch as will finde them worke for *meate* and *drinke*. And by this *Law*, it was provided, that all children under yeeres of age, whether *Male* or *Female* that wandred abroad by themſelves, or with their parents, or others, might be ſeized upon, and taken away from their parents, by thoſe who would bring them up in ſome honeſt labour, or occupation, till they came to twenty yeares if Females, and foure and twenty yeeres of age if Males: And by this Act, the *Major* of the *Citty* of *London*, and all other *Majors*, *Bailiffes*, *Sheriffes*, *Conſtables*, and other head *Officers* of every *Cittie* and *Towne corporate*, are enjoyned once every moneth to make a view and examination of all aged, impotent, and lame perſons and beggars within the precinct of their juriſdiction, to ſee thoſe that were lame, and had lyen there above the ſpace of three whole yeeres, ſufficiently provided for, and to ſend all others home to the places where they were borne, &c. upon paine of forfeiting 40. ſhillings for every default.

See 5. *Edw.* 6. *c.* 2. and 3. *Phil.* and *Mar. c.* 5. 5. *Eliz. c.* 3. 14. *E. c.* 5. 18. *El. c.* 3. 39. *Eliz. c.* 4. 5 5. 43. *Eliz. c.* 2. 3. 4. There were divers good *Lawes* enacted for the reliefe of poore, impotent, aged, maimed, and decrepit perſons; and good proviſions made for poore *Orphans*, and children too, which are to be bound, and placed out to husbandry, or ſome other honeſt trade and labour; or to be ſet on worke upon a common ſtocke, or be trained up in *Hoſpitalls*, till they are fit to be *apprentizes*, *&c.* which *Lawes*, if they were as carefully executed, as they were piouſly

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piously made, no *Orphans*, nor other neede complaine, I am sure never any should perish in the street for want of looking to, which is onely the fault of Officers, not of the Lawes, which are no way defective, either in inflicting some condigne punishment upon vagrant sturdy beggers, who refuse to worke, or in providing for the relieſe of *Orphans*, and poore impotent persons who are unable to labour.

1 The *Overseers* of the *poore* of every *Parish* appointed purposely by the *Law*, to see the *impotent*, *poore*, and *Orphans* duly relieved, ought every weeke to enquire what poore there are in their parishes, and to allot them a competent allowance according to their necessities.

2 These *Overseers* should weekely enquire how these *Orphans* and *impotent persons*, which they place out to others are provided for, and to examine whether they have food sufficient allowed them, and in case they finde them with whom they are placed, negligent in providing for them, or in suffering them to stray abroad, and so to perish, or miscarry, to complaine of them to the Magistrates who have power to inflict such punishments on them, as the quality of their offence demerits.

3 Those *chidren* that are of age and strength to worke, ought to be bound out to some trade or other, or else set to worke upon some common parish stocke, of which the *Overseers* of the poore for the time being, or some others deputed by the *Parish*, should have the mannaging and government, appointing every *child* to that worke hee is fit, and setting some Master worke-man over them who should instruct them.

4 The *Constables*, *Overseers* of the poore, and *Beadells*, especially if they see any such poore *Orphans*, or *children*, or other *impotent persons*, *begging*, *playing*, or *loytering* in the streetes, should presently examine them what they are, and where they live: If in another *Parish* they should presently convey them thither, and acquaint the *Overseers* of the *poore*, or *Constables* with them, that so it might keep them & provide

for them if neede be according as our lawes preſcribe. If their owne pariſh, if they are poore and neede relieſe, they are forthwith to take care for their ſupply and education, and in caſe they are fit for any worke or emploiment, to ſet them to that they are able to performe, and to traine them up or place them out to ſuch who will bring them up to ſome honeſt labour.

5 When ſuch *Orphans* and *poore children* are thus placed out apprentiſes, the *Overſeers* and ſuch as binde them out apprentiſes, and their ſucceſſors, or at leaſtwiſe the *Overſeers* of the pariſhes, or Maſters, or *Alderman* of the ſeverall ward, where they are placed, ought, and may monethly enquire, how they are uſed by their Maſters, whether they allow them competent food and raiment, while they keepe them to their work, and give them that which is fit for Chriſtians, or perſons of their age and quality: whether they keepe them in their ſervice, or elſe turne them away without juſt cauſe, (in all or ſome of which many Maſters are often delinquent) And in caſe they find them pervert, to complaine againſt them for it, that ſo they may be puniſhed in a juſt and legall manner.

And if all *Overſeers* of the *poore*, *Conſtales*, *Beadles* and under *Officers* would be but thus diligent in their places, or if ſuperiour *Magiſtrates* would but puniſh them ſeverely, as our lawes appoint, where they finde them negligent in their duties, wee ſhould quickely have no begging, no periſhing, nor complaining in our ſtreets.

FINIS.

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